

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 88

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Maryann Cox

PRESENT POSITION therapist

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 5.2 1937 Dayton, Ohio

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: clay

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

University of Colorado - BFA

Advanced work - Ohio University, Youngstown State Univ.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

All Ohio Show - Canton - 1986 - prize winner

Butler Institute of Am Art - Youngstown, OH - 1970's - 80's

Hoyt Institute - New Castle - 1985, 86

Unitarian Church - Youngstown - 1980's

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS: 2nd - All Ohio Show, Canton

Distinguished Award - Hoyt -

Top award - Unitarian -

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

I have studied ceramics at the University of Colorado, Ohio State, Ohio University, and Youngstown State University. I cannot explain my attraction for and addiction to clay.

I have been fairly serious about clay for 20 years. I can't predict how long I will remain into it as it is demanding work---physically, timewise, creatively, etc.

I started out as a functional potter and still do some functional work. My non-functional work ~~now at Apple Gallery~~ is generally stoneware (sometimes earthenware). It is glazed with oxides and commercial glazes and fired twice. It is then "smoked" in a metal container riddled by air holes, with sawdust being the combustible material. Sometimes the piece is wrapped with vegetation and/or tinfoil.

So far all my pieces have been objects which I have sort of "had" to do---ideas from where I'm not really aware of---somewhere in my background which consists of quantities of education, middle class upbringing, time spent in the out-of-doors, time spent with various ages and numbers of children, interest in beauty, interest in people, interest in education, interest in ideas, etc.

My philosophy of art is still being formulated in my mind---an on-going process (hopefully).

Mainly I like to have the owner of the piece given pleasure every time he/she looks at/holds it--a kind of warm, pleasurable, uplifting feeling---at peace with the nature of the world.

Maryann Cox

I also hope that the pleasure is both visual and tactile. And, as the medium is clay, I think I desire the owner/viewer to feel some sort of communion with the earth---the more basic elements of life. I object to similes comparing clay to human lives being "molded". I feel that humans grow on their own and are not^{totally}/shaped---clay I feel is totally shaped.

My final feeling about clay, I admit, is something to do with permanence. Everyone questions life/death at some time in their life. I think I feel that something of me will live on for future archeologists--sometimes happily (when I'm proud of a piece) ---sometimes not.

Maryann Cox